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10/701,889

11/05/2003

R. Mark Halligan

7208-90742

7856

24628

7590

01/19/2007

WELSH & KATZ, LTD  
120 S RIVERSIDE PLAZA  
22ND FLOOR  
CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

BOYCE, ANDRE D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3623

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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PAPER

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/701,889  
Filing Date: November 05, 2003  
Appellant(s): HALLIGAN ET AL.

**MAILED**

**JAN 19 2007**

**GROUP 3600**

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Jon P. Christensen  
For Appellant

**EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

This is in response to the appeal brief filed October 12, 2006 appealing from the Office action mailed November 14, 2005.

**(1) Real Party in Interest**

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

**(2) Related Appeals and Interferences**

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

**(3) Status of Claims**

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

**(4) Status of Amendments After Final**

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

**(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter**

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

**(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal**

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

**(7) Claims Appendix**

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

**(8) Evidence Relied Upon**

US 2003/0158745	Katz et al	08-2003
USPN 6,167,397	Jacobson et al	12-2000

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, 1999

**(9) Grounds of Rejection**

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katz et al (US 2003/0158745), in view of Jacobson et al (USPN 6,167,397).

As per claim 1, Katz et al disclose a method of discovering trade secrets of an organization (i.e., system for a company to develop and maintain intellectual capital, ¶ 0005, including trade secret information, ¶ 0034), such method comprising the

steps of: collecting sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets through an input device of a computer from a plurality of persons of the organization (i.e., user enters information regarding new innovation via tab 500, ¶ 0040), and generating a report containing the non-redundant descriptive information about potential trade secrets of the organization (i.e., innovations folder 600, containing one entry for each innovation, ¶ 0043). Katz et al does not disclose analyzing the collected sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets using logical and mathematical formulae to identify and eliminate any redundancy among the sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets to define a collection of descriptive information about potential trade secrets of the organization. Jacobson et al discloses an algorithm for clustering of documents matching queries based on occurrence of terms, whereby weighing the terms using a standard measure results in identification of a small number of clusters (i.e., defining a collection of similar documents, column 2, lines 46-52). In addition, Jacobson et al discloses the clustering of documents employed as a post search analytical tool (column 6, lines 19-23), thereby supplementing the Katz et al innovations query page 1200 (¶ 0050). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the elimination of redundancy via the clustering of documents in Katz et al, as seen in Jacobson et al, as an efficient means of searching in a set of structured documents.

As per claim 2, Katz et al disclose correlating among the sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets having at least some redundant entries to

identify sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets that are related by redundancy and sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets that are unrelated (i.e., the innovation query page 1200 allows the user to execute searches based upon various attributes of the abstract, ¶ 0050). Katz et al does not explicitly disclose integrating redundant entries among the respective sets into compiled sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets with non-redundant entries that together with the sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets with unrelated entries define a collection of descriptive information about potential trade secrets. Jacobson et al provides for clustering of documents matching queries based on occurrence of terms, whereby weighing the terms using a standard measure results in identification of a small number of clusters (i.e., defining a collection of similar documents, column 2, lines 46-52). Further, Jacobson et al disclose an infrequent matching, where a document and record may be joined based on a high probability of being semantically related (column 7, lines 6-10). In addition, Jacobson et al discloses the clustering of documents employed as a post search analytical tool (column 6, lines 19-23), thereby supplementing the Katz et al innovations query page 1200 (¶ 0050). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include integrating redundant entries with non-redundant entries in Katz et al, as seen in Jacobson et al, as an efficient means of searching in a set of structured documents.

As per claims 3 and 6, Katz et al disclose conducting interviews of each person of the plurality of persons over an electronics communications network (e.g., information acquired from users via network 10, ¶ 0033).

As per claim 4, Katz et al disclose downloading a web form containing a plurality of information entry fields that request trade secret information from each person of the plurality of persons (i.e., users accesses web pages via user interface and access new innovation page 500, ¶¶ 0039, 0043).

As per claim 5, Katz et al disclose collecting information from each person of the plurality of persons regarding the identities of a plurality of other persons who may have information about the trade secrets of the organization (i.e., peernet access link 618 that allows users to locate and store profiles of professionals with expertise in the particular innovation, ¶ 0058).

As per claim 7, Katz et al disclose downloading a web form containing a plurality of information entry fields that request said identities from each person of the plurality of persons (i.e., users accesses web pages via user interface and access peernet access link 618 that allows users to locate and store profiles of professionals with expertise in the particular innovation, ¶¶ 0043, 0058).

As per claim 8, Katz et al disclose collecting information from each person of the plurality of persons regarding the locations of the trade secrets of the organization (i.e., locations of trade secrets may be found in innovations folder 600, ¶ 0043).

As per claim 9, Katz et al disclose conducting interviews of each person of the plurality of persons over an electronics communications network (i.e., user entered

information, based on template of main page 40 and new innovation page 500, maintained by network administrator, ¶¶ 0038-39) .

As per claim 10, Katz et al disclose downloading a web form containing a plurality of information entry fields that request said information on locations from each person of the plurality of persons (i.e., users accesses web pages via user interface and innovations folder 600, ¶¶ 0043-44).

As per claim 11, Katz et al disclose the step of correlating further comprises matching respective information entry fields of the plurality of fields of the trade secret information entries and marking trade secret information entries with matching fields as belonging to a single potential trade secret group (i.e., matched entries are listed in order of relevance to the search terms and saved in the internal abstracts folder based on the selected innovation, ¶ 0057).

As per claim 12, Katz et al disclose a field for a subject matter of the trade secret (i.e., abstract 1204, ¶0050).

As per claim 13, Katz et al disclose a field for a format of the trade secret (i.e., general classification 1214, ¶ 0050).

As per claim 14, Katz et al disclose a field for a product or service enhanced by the trade secret (i.e., applications, ¶ 0050) .

As per claim 15, Katz et al disclose the step of correlating further comprises performing key word searching of the plurality of fields of each potential trade secret group (i.e., user submits search query S104 and determines where to search S106, figure 14).



As per claim 16, Katz et al does not disclose improving the performance of said correlation by replacing any keywords encountered that are associated with a corresponding master keyword in a table of synonym keywords with the corresponding master keyword. Jacobson et al disclose an attribute/value index, wherein a collection of attributes is stored (i.e., master index) and matched at a later time, similar to a table to synonym keywords. In addition, Jacobson et al discloses the clustering of documents employed as a post search analytical tool (column 6, lines 19-23), thereby supplementing the Katz et al innovations query page 1200 (§ 0050). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a table of synonym keywords in Katz et al, as seen in Jacobson et al, as an efficient means of searching in a set of structured documents.

As per claims 17-18, Katz et al does not disclose subdividing each potential trade secret group into more specific sub-groups based on the analysis of keywords contained in the plurality of fields and where each sub-group has at least a predefined number of keywords in common. Jacobson et al disclose documents clusters created and scored based upon the diversity of matches of documents (column 3, lines 12-15). In addition, Jacobson et al discloses the clustering of documents employed as a post search analytical tool (column 6, lines 19-23), thereby supplementing the Katz et al innovations query page 1200 (§ 0050). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the analysis of keywords where each sub-

group has at least a predefined number of keywords in common in Katz et al, as seen in Jacobson et al, as an efficient means of searching in a set of structured documents.

As per claims 19-20, Katz et al does not disclose using common keywords from keyword fields of multiple potential trade secret entries and using non-common keywords and their frequency of occurrence in the keyword field of multiple potential trade secret entries being integrated as a common/non-common keyword field in the resulting non-redundant trade secret entry. Jacobson et al disclose determining the similarity between documents by determining the co-occurrence of infrequently occurring (i.e., non-common) terms in the vicinity of query (i.e., common) keywords (column 3, lines 63-67). In addition, Jacobson et al discloses the clustering of documents employed as a post search analytical tool (column 6, lines 19-23), thereby supplementing the Katz et al innovations query page 1200 (¶ 0050). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include using common and non-common keywords and their frequency of occurrence in Katz et al, as seen in Jacobson et al, as an efficient means of searching in a set of structured documents.

As per claims 21-23, Katz et al does not disclose forming predetermined mathematical quantities, an arithmetic mean, or a standard deviation to represent a characteristic value and an error range for each numerical field of the plurality of trade secret entries being integrated. Jacobson et al disclose using statistically and logarithm analysis to achieve a flattening effect that gives importance to the number

of term occurrences (column 3, lines 37-41). In addition, Jacobson et al discloses the clustering of documents employed as a post search analytical tool (column 6, lines 19-23), thereby supplementing the Katz et al innovations query page 1200 (¶ 0050). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include forming predetermined mathematical quantities, an arithmetic mean, or a standard deviation to represent a characteristic value and an error range in Katz et al, as seen in Jacobson et al, as an efficient means of searching in a set of structured documents.

As per claims 24-26, Katz et al disclose generating data mining signatures, content filtering signatures, or electronic document scanning signatures from the collected trade secret information, or by the results of logical or mathematical formulae applied thereto (i.e., various levels of access determine how much of each entry can be viewed, based upon password and user-defined access control, ¶¶ 0034, 0041).

Claims 27-52 are rejected based upon the rejection of claims 1-26, since they are the programmed computer claims corresponding to the method claims.

#### **(10) Response to Argument**

In the Appeal Brief, Appellant argues that 1) neither Katz nor Jacobson, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the elimination of redundant or identical entries, 2) claims 1 and 27 are limited to analyzing the collected sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets using logical and mathematical formulae to

Art Unit: 3623

identify and eliminate any redundancy among the sets of descriptive information about potential trade secrets to define a collection of descriptive information about potential trade secrets of the organization, and that since Katz et al merely creates a database and method for accessing the database and Jacobson et al merely provides a method of clustering identifiers of documents, the combination fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation, 3) claims 2 and 28 are limited to integrating redundant entries among the respective sets into compiled sets into compiled sets of trade secret information, and that since Katz et al and Jacobson et al both deal with static databases, there is no integration of redundant entries as under the claimed invention and 4) a prima facie case of obviousness has not been met, since the Examiner has failed to establish any credible basis for believing that the combination contemplates the reduction and elimination of redundant entries and that the Examiner has failed to provide any basis for why one skilled in the art would have been led by the relevant teachings of the applied references to make the proposed combination.

With respect to argument 1, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. First, the Examiner notes that Appellant's specification does not seem to even mention eliminating any redundancy among sets of descriptive information, much less that the elimination of redundancy equates to getting rid of or removing that which exceeds what is normal or necessary, as is now alleged for the first time in Appellant's Appeal Brief. As such, the Examiner submits that Appellant is attempting to define the claim language to be more specific in scope than the specification supports, since the

specification is silent on the elimination of redundancy equates to getting rid of or removing that which exceeds what is normal or necessary.

Moreover, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, (see Appendix A) also defines eliminate as "to set aside as unimportant," or "ignore." Jacobson et al accomplishes this by discloses clustering of documents, based upon a query, that share common terms (column 2, lines 46-50 and column 3, lines 8-12), wherein the aim of document clustering techniques is to identify document-clusters such that any document in the cluster is representative of the set of all documents in the cluster (column 5, lines 60-63). As such, Jacobson et al discloses one document representing all the documents, thus setting aside or ignoring the other documents. Further, Jacobson et al discloses having created the cluster of documents the user is then presented with an identification of the individual clusters and the user can then select any one of the clusters for examination (column 6, lines 9-12). As a result, Jacobson et al indeed eliminates redundancy via clustering of similar documents.

With respect to argument 2, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. First, it is noted that Appellant merely alleges that the combination of Katz et al, in view of Jacobson et al fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claim limitation, without pointing specifically to what is not taught and why the cited portion of the references fail to teach the claim limitations. In addition, Jacobson et al discloses an algorithm for clustering of documents matching queries based on occurrence of terms, whereby weighing the terms using a standard measure results in identification of a small number of clusters (i.e., defining a collection of similar documents, column 2, lines 46-

Art Unit: 3623

52). Moreover, Jacobson et al discloses the clustering of documents employed as a post search analytical tool (column 6, lines 19-23), thereby supplementing the Katz et al innovations query page 1200 (¶ 0050), thus indeed teaching the claimed limitation. Further, as seen in the discussion with respect to argument 1, Jacobson et al indeed eliminates redundancy via clustering of similar documents.

With respect to argument 3, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. First, it is noted that Appellant merely alleges that the combination of Katz et al, in view of Jacobson et al fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claim limitation, without pointing specifically to what is not taught and why the cited portion of the references fail to teach the claim limitations. In addition, Jacobson et al provides for clustering of documents matching queries based on occurrence of terms, whereby weighing the terms using a standard measure results in identification of a small number of clusters (i.e., defining a collection of similar documents, column 2, lines 46-52). Moreover, contrary to Appellant's assertion, the database in Jacobson et al is not static. Rather, Jacobson et al discloses creating clusters of documents, wherein the user is presented with an identification of the individual clusters and can then select any one of the clusters for examination (column 6, lines 9-12). As such, Jacobson et al indeed discloses integration of redundant entries.

With respect to argument 4, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. As discussed above, with respect to argument 1, the combination of Katz et al in view of Jacobson et al indeed contemplates the reduction and elimination of redundant entries. In addition, the Examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by

Art Unit: 3623

combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Jacobsen et al discloses the clustering of documents employed as a post search analytical tool (column 6, lines 19-23), thereby supplementing the Katz et al innovations query page 1200 (¶ 0050).

Moreover, many times there is neither a motivation to make a modification clearly articulated in the references nor an evident lack of motivation. Rather, the references typically disclose elements or aspects of the claimed invention, but do not specifically point the way toward the combination. As such, a judgment must be made whether “a person of ordinary skill in the art would have had sufficient motivation to combine the individual [elements] forming the claimed [invention].” *In re Clinton*, 527 F.2d 1226, 1228, 188 USPQ 365, 367 (CCPA 1976).

Lastly, a suggestion, teaching, or motivation to combine the relevant prior art teachings does not have to be found explicitly in the prior art, as the teaching, motivation, or suggestion may be implicit from the prior art as a whole, rather than expressly stated in the references. *In re Kotzab*, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

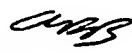
Art Unit: 3623

**(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix**

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.


Respectfully submitted,

  
Andre Boyce  
January 4, 2007

Conferees:

Vincent Millin, Conferee



  
ANDRE BOYCE  
PATENT EXAMINER  
AU 3623

  
Alex Kalinowski, Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3691



**Appendix A**



# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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Merriam-Webster, Incorporated  
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



### A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

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ther of two very large seals (genus *Mirounga*) characterized by a long inflatable proboscis: a and in Pacific coastal waters from southeastern b.; one (*M. leonina*) found in coastal c. and Patagonia

**adj** (14c) **archaic**: **ELEVATED**  
**vd**: **-vat-ing** [ME, fr. L *elevatus*, pp. of *ele-*  
*ve* --- more at **LEVER**] **vi** (15c) **1**: to lift up  
**k** or **s** **tatus**: **EXALT** **3**: to improve morally,  
**4**: to raise the spirits of: **ELATE** **~ vi**: to  
*voice* **elevated** (to a shout) **SYN** **SEE** **LIFT**  
(1553) **1 a**: raised esp. above the ground  
(highway) **b**: increased esp. abnormally (as in  
oil pressure) **2 a**: being morally or intel-  
~ conversation) **b**: **FORMAL**, **DIGNIFIED** (~  
~ mood or feeling

(A) *n* (14c) 1: the height to which something is elevated  
angular distance of something (as a celestial body)  
*n* 2: the degree to which a gun is aimed  
height above the level of the sea : ALTITUDE  
skater's leap and seeming suspension in the air  
chieve an elevation 3: an act or instance of elevating  
that is elevated: as a place : an elevated place  
climb 5: the quality or state of being elevated  
on (as of a building) on a vertical plane

7 (1646) **1:** one that raises or lifts something  
 rial **b:** a cage or platform and its hoisting  
 people or things to different levels **c:** GRAIN  
 auxiliary airfoil usu. attached to the tail plan  
 ling pitch — see AIRPLANE illustration  
 : instrumental arrangements of popular song  
 evator or retail store)

enleven, fr. *enleven*, adj., fr. OE *enleofan*, fr. *-leofan*; akin to OE *lēon* to lend — more at — see NUMBER table 2; the 11th in a set or among 11 units or members; *esp.* a football team  
*pron.* *nl* in constr. — *elev-enth* \-vən(t)th/ adj.

438\ *n* (1955) *Brit*: an examination taken by the ages of 11 and 12 that determines the type o which they are assigned  
pl but sometimes sing in *canstr* [double pl. of  
9) *Brit*: light refreshment (as a snack) taken in  
g  
the latest possible time (still making changes

**levator + aileron** (1944): an airplane control  
[ME. fr. OE *alif*: akin to ON *alfr* elf & per-  
e at ALB] (bef. 12c) 1: a small often mischie-  
vously creature; also: a usu. lively mischievous  
elf-ish 'el-fish' *adj* — **elf-ish-ly** *adv*  
— **elf** (1596) 1 a: of, relating to, or prob-  
ably an elf esp. in its tiny size (~ portions)  
92) or magical quality or charm  
92): hair matted as if by elves — *usu. used in*

small insectivorous owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*)  
S. and Mexico that often roosts and nests in

nentary (school) + high (school)] (ca. 1790)  
gned for use in grades 1 to 12  
: a judge and priest of Israel who according to  
was entrusted with the care of the boy Samuel  
*G Eliuz*, fr. Heb *Eliyahu*: ELIAH  
licitus, pp. of *eliceri*, fr. *e-* + *lucere* to allure  
rth or bring out (something latent or potential)  
idden fears' 2 : to call forth or draw out (as  
nse) (her remarks ~ed chills) *syn see* EDDUCE  
~ia-shan, *e-lic-i-tor* vi-lis-sa-to-r] n  
: eliding [*L elidere* to strike out, fr. *e-* + *lat-*  
ing) (1796) 1 a : to suppress or alter (as a  
ision) b : to strike out (as a written word) 2  
action: OMIT b: CURTAIL ABBRIDGE  
adj [ME, fr. MF & I.L. MF, fr. LL *eligibilis* tr.  
nore at ELECT] (15c) 1 a : qualified to partici  
titled (~ to retire) b : permitted under foot

ball rules' to catch a forward pass (an ~ receiver) 2 : worthy of being chosen ~ DESIRABLE (an ~ young bachelor) ~ el-gi-bil-lity  
~  
el-la-jə-'bi-lə-tē n eligible ~ el-gi-gi-bly 'e-la-jə-blə-əd  
El-li-jah 'E-l-i-jə \n [Heb Elyāh] : a Hebrew prophet of the 9th century  
BC who according to the account in I Kings championed the worship  
of Jehovah as against Baal  
elim-i-nate 'E-l-i-mə-'nāt \vi -nat-ed; -nat-ing [L. *eliminatus*; pp. of  
*eliminare*, fr. e + *limin-*, *limen* threshold] (1568) 1 'a : to cast out or  
set rid of : REMOVE, ERADICATE (the need to ~ poverty) 2 : to set  
aside as unimportant ; IGNORE 2 : to expel (as waste) from the living  
body 3 : to cause (as an unknown) to disappear by combining two or  
more mathematical equations ~ elim-i-na-tive 'E-l-i-mə-'nā-tiv \adj ~  
elim-i-na-to'r \-'nā-tər \n  
elim-i-na-tion 'E-l-i-mə-'nā-shən \n, often attrib (1627) : the act, pro-  
cess, or an instance of eliminating or discharging; as 'a : the act of  
discharging or excreting waste products from the body b : the re-  
moval from a molecule of the constituents of a simpler molecule (eth-  
anol is formed by the ~ of water from ethanol) — compare ADDITION

ELISA (-tī-shə-*n*) (1978): ENZYME-LINKED IMMUNOSORBENT ASSAY.  
 ELISHA (-tī-shə-*n* [Heb *Elīshā'*): a Hebrew prophet and disciple and successor of Elijah.  
 elision (-tī-shən) [L *elision-*, *elisiō*, fr. L *elidere*] (1581) 1 a: the use of a speech form that lacks a final or initial sound which a variant speech form has (as: instead of *is in there's*). b: the omission of an unstressed vowel or syllable in a verse to achieve a uniform metrical pattern. 2: the act or an instance of omitting something; OMISSION.  
 elite (-tī-*l*ij-ə) [F *élite*, fr. OF *eslire*, fr. fem. of *eslit*, pp. of *eslire* to choose] (1781) 1 a: *single or pl in constr.*: the choice part of a group. b: *single or pl in constr.*: the cream (the ~ of the entertainment world). b *single or pl in constr.*: the best of a class (superachievers who dominate the computer ~). Marilyn Chase. c: *single or pl in constr.*: the socially superior part of society (how the ~ live ~ *A P World*) (how the French-speaking ~ was changing). -Economist. d: a group of persons who by virtue of position, or education exercise much power or influence (members of the ~ of the ruling ~) (the intellectual ~s of the country). e: a member of such an elite ~. ~ *usu.* used in pl. (the ~ ~ pursuing ~ studies in Europe ~ Robert Merrick). 2: a typewriter type providing 12 characters to the linear inch. -*elite adj.*

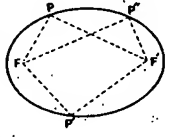
**elite**; **elitis** *chertyr* *elitis* *n* [ME, fr. *Ar.* *al-ikṣir*] 1: leadership or rule by an elite  
**elitism**; **elitic** *-lɪtɪk* *adj* [*N*] (*1947*) 1: leadership or rule by an elite  
 2: the selectivity of the elite; esp.: SNOBBERY 1 (~ in choosing new members)  
**élite**; **elistic** *-lɪstɪk* *n* or *adj*: consciousness of being or belonging to an elite — *elitist* *-lɪtɪst* *n* or *adj*.  
**elixir**; **al-ikṣir** *-ksɪr* *n* [ME, fr. ML, fr. *Ar.* *al-ikṣir*, the elixir, fr. *al* the + *iksir*, elixir, prob. fr. GK *xērion* desiccative powder, fr. *xēros* dry] (+acc.)  
 1: a substance held capable of changing base metals into gold  
 2: a substance held capable of prolonging life indefinitely  
 3: CURE-ALL (2): a medicinal concoction, esp. a clear liquid used containing alcohol that is used in medication either for its medicinal properties or as a flavoring  
 4: the essential principle

Eliza-be-than Vi-Ji-zz-'be-than' *adj* (1807): of, relating to, or characteristic of Elizabeth I of England or her reign — **Elizabethan** n  
elk/Vlk, n (bef. 12c) 1 *pl usu: elk*, n: MOOSE 1 — used for one of the (Old World) b: a large gregarious deer (*Cervus elaphus*) of No. America; Europe, Asia, and northwestern Africa — called also red deer; wapiti — c: any of various large Asian deer 2: soft tanned rug leather 3 *cap* [Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks]: a member of a major benevolent and fraternal order  
elk-bound /'el-ka-'haund, 'el-'kaund/ n (1889): NORWEGIAN ELKHOUND  
ell/Vel-n (ME *eln*, fr. OE; akin to OHG *elina*: ell, L *ulna* forearm, Gk. *elēnē* elbow, Skt. *aratni*) (bef. 12c): a former English unit of length (also for cloth) equal to 45 inches (about 1.14 meters); also: any of various units of length used similarly

**ell** *n* [alter, of *ell*] (1773) 1: an extension at right angles to the length of a building 2: an elbow in a pipe or conduit  
**ellagic acid** *\ə-'la-jik-, -e-\ n* [*F ellagique*, fr. *ellag*, anagram of *gall* + *ell*] (1810): a crystalline phenolic compound  $C_{14}H_6O_5$  with two lactone groupings that is obtained esp. from oak galls and some tannins and is used medicinally as a hemostatic  
**elliptical** *\el-'ip-ik-, -al- n* [*Gk. ellipsein*] (ca. 1753)

1: **a: OVAL**; **b: a** closed plane curve generated by a point moving in such a way that the sums of its distances from two fixed points is a constant; **a** plane section of a right circular cone that is a closed curve. 2: **ELLIPSIS**  
**ellipsis** \i-'lip-sis; -s; *n*; **pl ellip-ses** \i-'sez;  
 [L; fr. Gk *elleipsis* ellipsis, ellipse, fr. *elleipein*  
 to leave out, fall short, fr. *en* in + *leipein*  
 to leave out more at IN, LOAN] (1540) 1 **a**: the  
 omission of one or more words that are obviously  
 understood but that must be supplied to  
 make a construction grammatically complete  
 b: a sudden leap from one topic to another  
 2: marks or a mark (as . . . or \*\*\* or —)  
 indicating an omission (as of words) or a pause

ellipse 1b:  $F, F'$  foci;  $P, P'$  any point on the curve;  $FP + F'P = FP' + F'P' = FP + F'P'$



**el·lip·soid** \i-'lip-'soid, e-\ n (1721) : a surface all plane sections of which are ellipses or circles — **el·lip·soid·al** \i-'lip-'soid-əl, (-)e-\ *als*  
**ellipsoid** *adj*

elliptical *el-lip-ti-käl, -e\* or *el-lip-ti-k\* *adj* [Gk *elleiptikós* defective, marked by ellipsis, fr. *elleipsein* (1656) 1]: of, relating to, or shaped like an ellipse 2 *a*: of, relating to, or marked by ellipsis or an ellipse *b*: (1): of, relating to, or marked by extreme economy of speech or writing (2): of or relating to deliberate obscenity (as in literary or conversational style) — *el-lip-ti-cal-ly* *ad-ly* *adv*  
elliptical galaxy *n* (1948): a galaxy that has a generally elliptical shape and that has no apparent internal structure or spiral arms — called also *elliptical*; compare SPIRAL GALAXY  
ellipticity *el-lip-ti-tis-i-tee, (-e\)* *n* (1753): deviation of an ellipse or spheroid from the form of a circle or a sphere  
elm *el-m* *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to OHG *elme* elm, L *ulmus*] (bef. 12c) 1: any of a genus (*Ulmus*) of the family Ulmaceae, the elm family

comprising large trees with alternate stipulate leaves and small apetalous flowers 2: the wood of an elm  
elm bark beetle *n* (ca. 1909) : either of two beetles (family Scolytidae) that are vectors for the fungus causing Dutch elm disease: *a*: one (*Hylurgopinus rufipes*) native to eastern N. America *b*: one (*Scolytus multistriatus*) introduced from Europe into eastern N. America  
elm leaf beetle *n* (1881) : a small orange-yellow black-striped Old World chrysomelid beetle (*Pyrrhalta luteola*) that in the larval and adult stage is a leaf-eating pest of elms in eastern N. America  
El Niño /el-'ne-ni-ō/ *n*, *p* El Niños [Sp. lit., the child (i.e., the Christ child); fr. the appearance of the flow at the Christmas season] (1925) : an irregularly occurring flow of unusually warm surface water along the western coast of South America that is accompanied by abnormally high rainfall in usu. arid areas and that prevents upwelling of nutrient-rich cold deep water causing a decline in the regional fish population  
el-o-cu-tion /el-'la-'kii-shən/ *n* [ME *elocuciōn*, fr. L *elocutiō*, *elocutio*, fr. *eloqui*] (15c) 1: a style of speaking esp. in public 2: the art of effective public speaking — *el-o-cu-tion-ary* /-shə-'ner-ē/ *adj* — *el-*

elo-de-a vi-ʔo-de-a-n [NL], genus name, fr. Gk *helōdēs* marshy, fr. *helos* marsh; akin to Skt *saras* pond (ca. 1868) as one of a small American genus (*Elodea*) of submerged aquatic monocotyledonous herbs  
eloin [vi-ʔoin] [ME] *eloyen*, fr. MF *elsotgner*, fr. OF, fr. *es-ex-* (fr. L *ex-*) + *loing* (adv.) [fr. L *longe*, fr. *eloislonger*] (15c) 1 *archaic*: to take (oneself) far away 2 *archaic*: to remove to a distant or unknown place. CONF. 1.

<sup>1</sup>elongate *v* -lon-gat-, (Jē-, ē-) *vb* -gated; -gating [LL *elongatus*, pp. of *elongare*, to withdraw, fr. L *ē-* + *longus* *v* (1578) : to extend the length of ~ *v*; to grow in length

<sup>2</sup>elongate or elon-gated *adj* (1751) 1 : stretched out 2 : SLENDER

<sup>3</sup>elon-ga-tion (Jē-lon-ga-shən) *n* (14c) 1 : the angular distance of a celestial body from another around which it revolves or from a particular point in its orbit 2 : the state of being elongated or lengthened; *also* : the process of growing or increasing in length 3 : something that is elongated

**elope** \-'lɒp- wɪ'eloped; **elop-ing** [AF *alopeɪ*] (1628) 1: to slip away  
: ESCAPE 2 a: to run away from one's husband with a lover b: to  
run away secretly with the intention of getting married without  
parental consent — **elope-ment** \-'lɒp-mənt/ *n* — **elop-er** *n*  
**elo-quence** \-'e-lɔ-kwənt(t)s/ *n* (14c) 1: discourse marked by force  
and persuasiveness; *also*: the art or power of using such discourse. 2  
: the quality of forceful or persuasive expressiveness

**eloquent** *ˈkwɒnt* *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *eloquent-, eloquens* fr. prp. of *eloqui* to speak out, fr. *e-* + *loqui* to speak] (14c) **1**: marked by forceful and fluent expression (an ~ preacher). **2**: vividly or movingly expressive or revealing (an ~ monument) — **eloquently** *adv*  
**else** *ˈel(t)s* *adv* [ME *elles*, fr. OE; akin to L *alius* other, *alter* other of two, Gk *allos* other] (bef. 12c) **1**: a: in a different manner or place or at a different time (how ~ could he have acted) (here and nowhere ~)  
**2**: at a different time (when ~)

b: in an additional manner or place or at an additional time (what is gold found? 2: if not 1; OTHERWISE (leave or ~ you'll be sorry) ~ used absolutely to express a threat (do what I tell you or ~)   
 2else ad (bef. 12c): OTHER: a: being different in identity (it must have been somebody ~) b: being in addition (what ~ did he say)   
 else-where \-(h)wer-, -(h)wær adv [ME *elwesher*, fr. OE *elles hwær* (bef. 12c): in or to another place (took my business ~)   
 el-u-ant or el-u-ent \el-'yo-want- n [L *eluent*, *eluens*, prp. of *eluire*]

el-u-ate 'el-yə-wat, -wāt \ n [L *eluere* + E *-ate*] (1932) : the washings obtained by eluting  
el-u-ci-date 'el-ū-si-dāt, -dāt \ vb -dat-ed; -dat-ing [L *elucidatus*, pp. of

**elu-ci-dare** *v* *lu-si-<sup>3</sup>-dai-<sup>2</sup>-lu-ci-də* [lucid] *v* (ca. 1568): to make lucid esp. by explanation or analysis *syn* **EXPLAIN**  
**elu-ci-da-tion** *n* *lu-si-<sup>3</sup>-dai-shən* *n* **elu-ci-da-tive**  
*lu-si-<sup>3</sup>-dai-tiv* *adj* **elu-ci-da-tor** *lu-<sup>2</sup>-dai-tər* *n*  
**elu-cu-brate** *v* *lu-<sup>2</sup>-kyu-<sup>2</sup>-brāt* *v* **brat-ed**; **brat-ing** [L *elucubratus*, pp. of *elucubrare* to work on far into the night, fr. *e-* + *lucubrare* to work by lamplight – more at LUCUBRATION] (ca. 1623): to work out or express by studious effort **elu-cu-bration** *lu-<sup>2</sup>-kyu-<sup>2</sup>-brā-shən*

**n**  
**elude** \e-'lüd/ *v* **elud·ed**; **elud·ing** [*L. eludere, fr. e- + ludere to play*]  
 — **more** at LUDICROUS/ (1667) **1**: to avoid adroitly **EVIDENTLY** the  
*eluded* the traps/ (marginal note) **2**: to escape the perception of  
 (the nature of) **3**: to evade (a question) **4**: to escape (a predicament)  
 (the nature of) **5**: to evade (a question) **6**: to escape (a predicament)  
 continued to ~ **SYN** see **ESCAPE**  
**Elul** \e-'lül/ *n* [**Heb** **Elul**] (1535): the 12th month of the civil year or  
 the 6th month of the ecclesiastical year in the Jewish calendar: see  
**MONTH** table

**elusive** /e-'lū-siv, -'lū-ziv/ *adj* (1719): tending to elude: as **a**: tending to evade grasp or pursuit **b**: hard to comprehend or define (an ~ concept) **c**: hard to isolate or identify (a haunting ~ aroma). — **elusively** *adv* — **elusiveness** *n*

elute [ē-'lūt] *v.* elut-e; elut-ing [L *elutus*, pp. of *elūere* to wash out, fr. *e-* + *lavere* to wash — more at: LYE] (1731): EXTRACT; specif.: to remove (adsorbed material) from an adsorbent by means of a solvent — elution [ē-'lū-shən] *n.*  
elutriate [ē-'lū-trē-āt] *v.* -at-ed; -at-ing [L *elutriatus*, pp. of *elutriare*

to put in a vat, perh. fr. (assumed) *elutrum* vat, fr. Gk *elytron* reservoir  
lit., covering) (ca. 1727) : to purify, separate, or remove by washing —  
*elu-tri-a-tion* (ē-lū-trē-ā-shən) *n* — *elu-tri-a-tor* (ē-lū-trē-ā-tər) *n*  
**elu-vi-a-tion** (ē-lū-vē-ā-shən) *n* [*eluvium* of eluviation (fr. *e* +  
-*luvial*—as in *alluvial* + *-ation*) (1899) : the transportation of dis-  
solved or suspended material within the soil by the movement of water  
when rainfall exceeds evaporation — *elu-vi-al* (ē-lū-vē-əl) *adj* — *elu-*  
*vi-at-ed* (ē-lū-vē-ā-təd) *adj*

\ə\ about \ʔ\ kitten, F table \ɔʔ\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar  
 \au\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \ī\ ice \j\ job  
 \ŋ\ sing \ō\ go \oi\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot  
 \y\ yet \zh\ vision \ā, k, n, œ, æ, u; īē, ʔ\ see Guide to Pronunciation